

Message Text

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51
ACTION EUR-12

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 5052

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT GR
SUBJ: JOHN TOUMBAS REPLACES CONSTANTINE TSATSOS AS NEW DEMOCRACY
DEPUTY-AT-LARGE IN GREEK PARLIAMENT

1. JOHN TOUMBAS WAS SWORN IN AS DEPUTY-AT-LARGE FOR
THE NEW DEMOCRACY PARTY ON JULY 4 TO FILL THE SEAT VACATED
BY CONSTANTINE TSATSOS WHO WAS ELECTED AS PRESIDENT OF THE
HELLENIC REPUBLIC ON JUNE 19 (ATHENS 4553). TOUMBAS HAD
RUN AS A NEW DEMOCRACY CANDIDATE FROM THE ATHENS "A"
DISTRICT IN LAST NOVEMBER'S PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS BUT
HAD FAILED TO BE ELECTED. HOWEVER, THE FACT THAT HIS
VOTE TOTAL WAS THE HIGHEST NATION-WIDE AMONG UNSUCCESSFUL NEW
DEMOCRACY CANDIDATES GAVE HIM THE RIGHT TO FILL THE TSATSOS
SEAT UNDER TERMS OF THE APPLICABLE ELECTORAL LAW.

2. TOUMBAS IS 74 YEARS OF AGE. HE PURSUED A CAREER
AS A PROFESSIONAL NAVAL OFFICER FOR THIRTY-SEVEN YEARS,
AND RETIRED AS A VICE ADMIRAL FROM THE POSITION OF
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE GREEK FLEET IN 1953. HE ENTERED
POLITICAL LIFE IN 1955 AS A PROTEGE OF THE LIBERAL
POLITICAL LEADER SOPHOCLES VENIZELOS. HE WAS SUBSEQUENTLY
ELECTED AS A DEPUTY FROM THE ATHENS AREA - FIRST AS A LIBERAL
CANDIDATE IN THE ELECTIONS OF 1956 AND 1958 AND THEN AS A
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CENTER UNION CANDIDATE IN THE ELECTORAL CONTESTS OF 1962, 1963

AND 1964.

3. AFTER GEORGE PAPANDREOU'S FALL FROM POWER, IN 1965,
TOUMBAS JOINED THE "APOSTATES" (CENTER UNION DEFECTORS) AND
HELD MINISTERIAL PORTFOLIOS IN THE SUCCEEDING
GOVERNMENTS OF PRIME MINISTERS ATHANASIADIS-NOVAS AND
STEPHANOPOULOS. HIS FINAL PORTFOLIO WAS THAT OF MINISTER
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN PRIME MINISTER STEPHANOPOULOS' CABINET,
A POSITION HE WAS HOLDING AT THE TIME OF THE DISSOLUTION
OF THAT GOVERNMENT IN DECEMBER 1966. KUBISCH

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